




COUNCIL FOR NATIONAL POLICY

Standard Speaker Guidelines Regarding Political Activity

Council for National Policy (CNP) is exempt from federal income tax under §501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. As such, it cannot “participate in, or intervene in (including through the making of statements), any political campaign on behalf of (or in opposition to) any candidate for public office.” This restriction applies only to election campaigns, and does not apply to lobbying activities regarding legislation or ballot initiatives or referendums (in which the public is the legislature).

 CNP Action, Inc. is exempt from federal income tax under §501(c)(4) of the Internal Revenue Code. As such, it may engage in political activity to some extent, but such activity may not be its primary activity. However, under federal and state election laws, both CNP and CNP Action, Inc. are prohibited from making direct and in-kind contributions to or on behalf of federal and many state candidates, and both are subject to limits on the extent to which they may refer to candidates (even in discussions of public policy issues) during certain pre-election periods.

To help CNP and CNP Action, Inc. ensure that they comply with the requirements of §501(c)(3) and §501(c)(4), respectively, and with federal and state election laws, without compromising their message, CNP and CNP Action, Inc. respectfully request that you observe the following guidelines regarding political activity when you participate in any activity sponsored by CNP and CNP Action, Inc.

Speakers: In any public presentation at an event sponsored by CNP and CNP Action, Inc., please do not endorse or denigrate any candidate for public office, or any political party, and do not use legislative issues in order to comment on, otherwise attempt to affect, any election. Favorable comments about a candidate’s past actions as a private citizen or public official should be avoided if a reasonable person would construe them as an endorsement of his candidacy.

Candidates: If you are a candidate for elective public office, please avoid any mention of your candidacy, or any impending election. Please do not conduct any fundraising or distribute any campaign literature on CNP’s premises or at any event sponsored by CNP and CNP Action, Inc., and do not otherwise use CNP’s resources, *e.g.*, office equipment and supplies, for your campaign.

Officeholders: In some cases, CNP and CNP Action, Inc. invites public officials to speak at or attend an event because of the office you hold in federal, state, or local government, and not because you are or may be a candidate for re-election, or for election to another public office. At such events, please do not engage in campaign activity, or otherwise suggest that your presence indicates endorsement of your incumbency or candidacy (if any), or opposition to your opponent (if any), by CNP and CNP Action, Inc.

Others: Please do not distribute campaign literature, conduct fundraising activities, or otherwise engage in political activity immediately before, during, or immediately after any event sponsored by CNP and CNP Action, Inc.

Thank you for your consideration. Your participation in any event sponsored by CNP and CNP Action, Inc. indicates that you have agreed to observe these guidelines. If you have any questions about the meaning or application of these guidelines, please contact Bob McEwen at (202) 207-0165.